

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 14, 1999 LB 299

can become apparent. A binge, then, can last anywhere from three to 15 days, and the abuser can continually take the meth hits and keep going as long as possible. They become hyperactive, both mentally and physically. Tweaking is what is called the most dangerous stage of meth abuse, and this is an abuser who has not slept during the binge. They are irritable, they are paranoid, they tend to react violently. And if they are using alcohol or another substance, there are negative feelings and the feeling they have of danger intensifies. They can appear normal. They can have...their eyes can be clear, their speech concise, but if you look closely, there are ways to determine because of the rapid motion of the eyes. They may be participants in spur-of-the-moment crimes and things such as that. The crash that happens after that, that usually lasts between one and three days, and this is where the abuser does not pose a threat to anyone. Basically, they go into the sleep mode. Then they are normal, they go through then the period of withdrawal at which time then they secure the drug again and you start the abuse pattern over again. If you look at the...some of the information that's come out recently about meth, there was an article that said that people who are in the "mom and pop" labs are now using fertilizer anhydrous ammonia, are tapping anhydrous ammonia out of the tanks the farmers have in their fields. This is why meth is such a problem. It is easy to make. You can do it with what are called precursor drugs. These are...these are ingredients that are not dangerous in themselves but when they are added to another ingredient will become dangerous. These are some of the examples I think are listed in that book that we gave you, and they can be bought over the counter. Ephedrine, which was a nasal decongestant, is now more restricted but...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: ...there are still other ways of producing meth. And this is why these small labs have come up. People can go into the grocery store, the drug store, buy the things, make the ingredients, cook it up in the home lab and then they have the ability to go out and sell that. Right now, a quarter of a gram is selling for approximately \$35. If you look at it, it's a very low cost to produce the drug, but there is a high turnover rate and you can have quite bit of cash then that